

University of Mississippi eGrove

Clippings

Civil Rights Archive

6-8-1866

Mississippi

J. G. Deupree

Memphis Bulletin

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/civ_clip



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Deupree, J. G. and Memphis Bulletin, "Mississippi" (1866). *Clippings*. 30.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/civ_clip/30

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Civil Rights Archive at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clippings by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

MISSISSIPPI.

*Still Heavier Rains Fences Lost—
Cotton Buried—Hail Storms—Corn
Demolished—Despair of Planters—
How it Affects Merchants—Freed-
men Cheerful—Blissful Ignorance—
Second Coming of Christ near at
Hand—Dr. Buck's Sermon.*

Special Correspondence Memphis Bulletin.]
BROOKSVILLE, Miss., June 8.

Since my last communication, so far from a cessation of wet weather, there have been additional rains, some of which were heavier than ever known in this part of the State. Most of the plantations have been entirely submerged. No ditches could contain the water. Cotton everywhere is lying flat upon the ground, in many places uprooted, and in others buried beneath the alluvium. Corn, too, is prostrate. In some sections of Lowndes and Noxubee, a severe hail-storm has literally demolished the crops, both corn and cotton. Planters will be forced to abandon portions of their crops to save the remainder. Fences have been completely washed away. Much time, (which is of inestimable value now,) will be consumed in splitting rails to replace the lost fences. Hence despondency is fearfully ripening into despair.

As a necessary consequence of the misfortunes of farmers, the merchants in our towns and villages are doing but a dull business. Many are selling on credit, and at a low profit, because otherwise they could not dispose conveniently of their goods and wares. Freedmen are the only cheerful people to be met with. They say, if they make nothing, it matters not, for their circumstances will be as good at the end of the year as now. They don't care to accumulate; their meat and bread is all they want. Rainy weather suits them—nothing to do but eat and sleep. "Let the grass grow, the Lord intended it to grow." They don't expect to live always; they don't care to leave anything to their children; they must make their own living. Truly "if ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

The idea that the second coming of Christ is near at hand, is gaining ground. Elder W. C. Buck, one of the astutest theologians of this State, who has devoted more than a half century to the study of the Bible, and especially the prophets, last Saturday delivered at Sharon Church, a very learned discourse upon the subject. He produced many strong reasons for his belief in the speedy coming of the Savior. Though nearly eighty years of age, he hopes to see the dawn of the millenium. Brevity of space forbids giving a summary of his eloquent sermon. In his final remarks, however, he urged the necessity of preparation to meet the Messiah on the ground, that though he may not soon appear upon earth, yet all must at no distant day come into his presence, for if Christ comes not, all must die sooner or later. NOXUBEE.

Letter from Mississippi.

*Industry of Planters—Unwise Policy—
Condition of Crops—Deerbrook—Its
Growth and Prosperity—The Sur-
rounding Country—Capt. Belsher's
School—Its Examination—Interest-
ing Occasion—Crawfordville—La-
dies—Commencement Exercises—
Addresses to the School.*

Special Correspondence Memphis Bulletin.]
DEERDROOK, June 29, 1866.

Three weeks have passed since the floods. Planters have been busy with the hoe and plough. Immense areas of weeds and grass have been destroyed, yet many crops are still far from being clean. Where grass abounds, as it so rapidly imbibes the moisture of the soil, crops are beginning seriously to suffer for rain. Many have pursued the policy averse to wisdom, of neglecting their corn to save their cotton. Hence the corn crop generally can be but a "short" one throughout the prairies. The poor counties adjoining will have to look elsewhere for bread another year. The cool weather seriously retards the growth of cotton. Usually at this season of the year, cotton averages from twelve to eighteen inches high, but now it will scarcely average more than six to eight inches. Besides, it is blooming rapidly—a sad indication that it is destined never to attain sufficient size to produce a fair yield. On the few places where corn has been well worked, it has gained a rich, dark green color, and with another rain would make a good crop. Where grass and weeds have overcome it, it is pale and yellow, and is regarded as lost.

The thriving little village of Deerbrook, situated in the midst of one of the finest prairies in the State, has rapidly risen to importance. One year ago a single edifice—a Methodist church—marked its site. Its inhabitants then were but the silent dead of the cemetery. Now Deerbrook may boast of a blacksmith shop, a family grocery, a flourishing dry goods establishment, a popular restaurant and confectionery, and scarcely less than a dozen dwellings. The resonance of the hammer and anvil, the rattling of car on the macadamized street, and the hum of industry, all indicate that the people are manfully engaged in the great battle of life. In its suburbs are several magnificent residences, occupied by the first families of the State.

One mile and a half from the village is the popular eclectic school of Captain T. C. Belsher, one of the best linguists and mathematicians in the State. But a few days ago, I attended the examination and commencement of this institution. The teachers and professors from Macon, Crawfordville and Columbus, were of the examining committee. Students were overwhelmed with intricate questions. Most of them, however, passed the ordeal with credit to themselves and the teacher. The occasioned was enlivened by the presence of the fair from all the neighboring villages. Representatives of the beauty and attractions of Crawfordville were especially admired. Their fine appearance, suave manners and agreeable conversation drew around them a crowd of fascinated admirers.

At noon all were regaled with refreshments, furnished by the ladies. Richest viands and confections were in profusion.

In the afternoon, declamations and other exercises pertaining to commencement, were listened by an appreciating audience. Then followed eloquent addresses to the school by Professor Turner, of Crawfordville, and Rev. Mr. Strode, of Macon, formerly of Huntsville, Ala. The importance of education, especially in the present condition of the South, was strongly presented and encouraged by the orators. Noxubee was highly complimented for the efforts she is making to prepare the intellect of her sons to guide her future destiny, and wield a mighty influence in State and National councils. When Radicalism and Fanaticism shall have been buried and forgotten, and statesmanship has resumed its sway, and reason and justice have supplanted passion, then the youth of to-day may bless the land. NOXUBEE.

MISSISSIPPI CORRESPONDENCE

*Cliftonville—Popularity of Its Mer-
chants—Return to the Credit System
—The Wheat, Corn and Cotton Crops
—A Mass-Meeting At Athens—An-
drew Johnson, the People and Phil-
adelphia Convention—Andrew John-
son in Mississippi.*

Special Correspondence Memphis Bulletin.]
CLIFTONVILLE, Miss., July 13, 1866.

This village is immediately on the road from Brookville, Miss., to Jacksonville, Ala., about equidistant from the two places. Like Deerbrook, it sprang into existence since the termination of the war. Merchants of Cliftonville, by their honest dealing and polite bearing, are rapidly gaining the trade of wealthy residents of the surrounding country. Many who formerly went ten or twelve miles to Brookville, Pickensville or Macon to purchase necessities or commodities, now ride a few miles over the finest roads in the world, and through a country of delightful scenery, to reach the elegant and fashionable establishment of "D— and J—," at which everything that *want* demands, or *fancy* claims, can be secured. Their intelligent clerk, Mr. Lewis, has given me several items of news for the BULLETIN, a paper, by the way, very popular here.

They do considerable business on time, especially with freedmen. From want of experience and foresight, freedmen squandered last year's earnings for luxuries and finery during the Christmas holidays. Now, that the supply of clothing, shoes, etc., furnished them by ex masters, is about exhausted, they must be newly equipped. Hence, having no money, they buy on orders from their employers, thus drawing on the present year's wages. Most of them would, if permitted, spend all their wages in advance, so great is their desire to trade.

Crops, in the vicinity of Cliftonville, are not good. Five weeks' drought that succeeded the floods, have had a deleterious effect. Showers of the past few days may revive them somewhat, though too late to be of any great advantage to corn. This cereal had about exhausted its strength, and, therefore, a good crop is impossible; the wheat crop has been a total failure. Not as much has been made as was planted. Cotton, though small, is clean, and in a condition to grow. It will be too late, however, to make more than a third of a crop, or, possibly, a half.